

**Church House  
Lechlade  
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

*for*

**Merrie Ridge Corporation NV**

*on behalf of*

**Mr M Walecki**


CA Project: 3429  
CA Report: 11159

July 2011

Church House  
Lechlade  
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3429  
CA Report: 11159

prepared by	Alexandra Wilkinson, Project Supervisor
date	15 July 2011
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	19 July 2011
approved by	Mark Collard
signed	
date	19 July 2011
issue	01

*This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.*

## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8) .....	4
3. DISCUSSION.....	6
4. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	6
5. REFERENCES .....	6
<b>APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks and archaeological features (1:250)
- Fig. 3 Trenches 1 and 2: Plans, sections and photographs (1:50)
- Fig. 4 Trench 3: Plan, section and photograph (1:50 and 1:20)
- Fig. 5 Tile floor surface 301 in Trench 3 looking west (scale 1m)
- Fig. 6 Yard surface 406 in Trench 4 looking west (scale 1m)
- Fig. 7 Surface of 'kiln tile'. The mortar is from later re-use of the tile (scale 0.25m)
- Fig. 8 Underside of 'kiln tile' (scale 0.25m)

## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Church House
<b>Location:</b>	Lechlade, Gloucestershire
<b>NGR:</b>	SU 2147 9948
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	15-24 June 2011
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	10/05452/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Corinium Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	CHL11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension and conversion of an existing garage into a three bedroom residence at Church House, Lechlade.

A series of brick and limestone walls and floor surfaces were identified. The heat-affected nature of some of the features and the quantities of tiles with aeration holes encountered suggest that these structures are associated with a malthouse depicted on site on the late 19th and early 20th-century Ordnance Survey mapping.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Merrie Ridge Corporation NV on behalf of Mr M Walecki at Church House, Lechlade (centred on NGR: SU 2147 9948; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC) for an extension and garage conversion (CDC Planning ref: 10/05452/FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *brief* (GCC 2011) prepared by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), the archaeological advisor to CDC, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Mr Parry. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1995), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The development area lies within the centre of Lechlade, immediately south of the medieval parish church of St Lawrence's. The level plot, approximately 270m<sup>2</sup> in size, was originally a stable block, garage and car park. It is bounded by Church House to its east, an electricity substation to its south, Shelley's Close to the west and the churchyard to its north. The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation mudstone of the Jurassic era, overlain by Summertown-Radley Sand and Gravel Member of the Pleistocene (BGS 2011). The natural substrate was not encountered in any of the observed groundworks.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.4 The *Brief* notes that the site lies in an area where medieval settlement associated with the church may formerly have been present (GCC 2011). In addition, the

Gloucestershire County Historic Environment Record (HER) records that between 8 and 10 coffin burials, aligned north/south, were found in a corner of the Market Place (c. 50m to the north of the site) in 1928 (HER ref 3150). An extant medieval fish pond (c. 60m to the south-east of the site) is first recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1876. Church House was the home of the Ainge family of wharfingers who traded from Old Wharf (VCH 1981, 109), which lay at the end of the garden c. 150 m to the south-east of the site. It was built in the late 17th century and refronted in the early 18th century. The formal gardens were also laid out at this time. The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping of 1876 shows a malthouse occupying the site. This is no longer depicted on the 1923 OS mapping.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.5 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of new footings and service trenches (Fig. 2, T1-T4).
- 1.6 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.7 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Corinium Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8)**

### ***Trench 1***

- 2.1 The natural substrate was not observed; the earliest deposit, 102, was a layer of soil approximately 1.5m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by a lighter brown looser soil 101, up to 0.8m thick. At the western end of the trench limestone floor surface 105 was identified sitting directly on top of deposit 101. On the northern side of the trench small red-brick wall 103 running roughly east/west was built on top of this floor surface. It in turn was butted by a hardened, blackened deposit, 104,



edged with roughly dressed limestone blocks which sat directly on top of 101. The wall and the blackened deposit had both clearly been heat-affected. All features were sealed by rubble-rich deposit 100. This rubble contained 19th-century pottery and ceramic building material (CBM), as well as modern material. Notable within the CBM were a large number of perforated kiln tiles (see section 3.1 below and Appendix B).

### **Trench 2**

- 2.2 Orangey brown gritty silty sand make-up 203 was observed approximately 0.6m bpgl in the northern part of trench 2. It was overlain by yellowish brown silty sand make-up 202, which was in turn covered by dark brown sandy silt make-up 204. In the southern side of the trench limestone wall 206 was built directly on top of deposit 204. There was no evidence of foundations or a cut. The wall ran approximately east/west and could only be seen in section. The wall was made up of two segments with a gap in the middle of the trench. Floor surfaces 208 and 209 butted the walls and may have originally been one floor but had been damaged and were not continuous. Floor surface 209 was partially covered by charcoal-rich deposit 201, which was also seen in the northern part of the trench. All surfaces and walls were then covered by rubble deposit, 200. In the southern and eastern sides of the trench this was sealed by brick-rich gritty hardcore deposit 205.

### **Trench 3**

- 2.3 Dark greyish brown sandy silt 305 was identified 0.3m bpgl. It was covered by a thin band of clean clay 305 which appeared to act as a sealing/bedding layer between the make-up layer 305 and the overlying floor surfaces. The clay was covered by mortar 304 which held in place brick floor 303. A further charcoal-rich mortar 302 acted as the bedding layer for final tile floor surface 301. This was covered by a loose rubble deposit 300.

### **Trench 4**

- 2.4 Dark brown sandy silt make-up 403 and mid orangey brown sandy grit make-up 404 were identified were identified at the base of trench 4 approximately 0.75m bpgl. They were overlain by mid yellowish brown silty sand make-up 402. In three areas of the trench on-edge limestone blocks were observed to form a rough cobbled surface. This surface was covered by dark grey sandy silt 405. All areas were sealed by brick rich hardcore deposit 400, similar to that recorded in trench 2.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 All the trenches excavated seemed to suggest that large amounts of make-up material has been laid down in the development area. Despite the ground being much lower than in the adjacent graveyard the natural substrate was not observed anywhere within the groundworks. The earliest features recorded were brick and limestone walls and surfaces. The heat-affected nature of some of the features and the quantities of tiles with aeration holes seemed to suggest a drying facility. The late 19th and early 20th-century OS mapping depicts a malthouse on the site and it is very likely that the structures found are associated with this malthouse and in particular its malt kiln. Conversations with the gardener on site, who had worked for the household for approximately 50 years, confirmed that this plot of land had originally held a malthouse. There were several floor surfaces identified, with those within the extant building being approximately 0.5m higher than those in the yard. Despite the similarity of material it is unclear whether they were part of the same building or are indicative of different phases of use. The cobbled yard surface which was only c. 0.3m bpgl is likely to be associated with the stable block.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken and the report written by Alexandra Wilkinson. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Alexandra Wilkinson, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2010 <http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer-google/googleviewer.html> accessed 04 May 2011

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Church House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



GCC (Gloucestershire County Council) 2011 *Church House, Wharf Lane, Lechlade. Conversion and extension of garage and stable block to provide a dwelling (revised scheme). Brief for a programme of archaeological recording.*

Patrick, A. 2004, *Maltings in England*, Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment Report N.1, English Heritage

VCH (Victoria County History) 1981 *Victoria County History of the County of Gloucester*, **VII**



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

## Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Limestone rubble in loose silty sand matrix			0.7	
101	Layer	Dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional limestone fragments			0.8	
102	Layer	Mid brown silty sand with regular Cotswold stone			<0.1	
103	Structure	East-west aligned red brick wall	2	>0.15	0.6	
104	Deposit	Blackened and hardened silty sand deposit edged with roughly dressed limestone blocks	0.7	0.6	0.08	
105	Structure	Limestone paved surface	1.2	0.6	0.08	

## Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Limestone rubble in loose silty sand matrix with frequent glass and metal inclusions			0.3	
201	Layer	Charcoal and ash rich sandy silt			0.05	
202	Layer	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional limestone fragments			>0.3	
203	Deposit	Mid orangey brown sandy silt				
204	Layer	Dark brown sandy gritty silt				
205	Layer	Mid yellowish brown grit with abundant brick, on west and south sides of trench only			0.3	
206	Structure	East-west running wall in south side of trench	3		0.5	
207	VOID					
208	Structure	Limestone floor surface		>0.8	0.08	
209	Structure	Limestone and brick surface	>1.5	>1.8	0.08	

## Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Limestone and brick rubble in loose silty sand matrix			0.1	
301	Structure	Tile floor surface	3.9	>0.8	0.06	
302	Layer	Charcoal rich mortar below 301			0.02	
303	Structure	Red brick floor surface			0.07	
304	Layer	Light brownish white mortar below 303			0.02	
305	Layer	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments			>0.4	
306	Layer	Light yellowish grey clay below 304			0.04	

## Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Gravel/hardcore			0.15	
401	Layer	Garden soil: Dark brown sandy silt			0.2	
402	Layer	Mid yellowish brown silty sand			0.5	
403	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional rubble inclusions				

404	Layer	Mid orangey brown sandy grit				
405	Layer	Dark grey sandy silt with occasional rubble inclusions			0.05	
406	Structure	On edge limestone pieces forming yard surface				

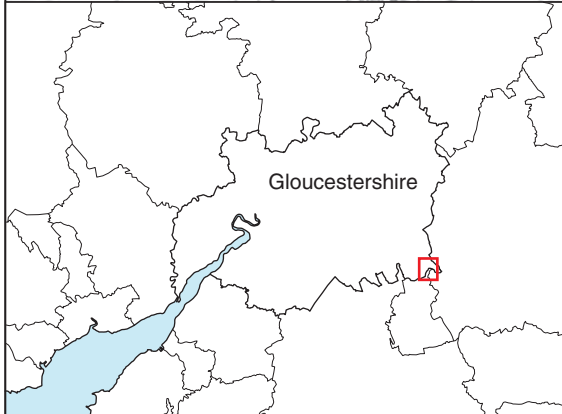
## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Quantities of modern material were recovered from the four trenches. The majority of the finds consists of bottle glass of the 19th century, few fragments of post-medieval to modern pottery sherds including unglazed earthenware, stoneware and refined whiteware and a small quantity of 19th-century metal objects.

Notable are two samples of perforated kiln tiles, retrieved from layer 100 within trench 1. One is a complete floor tile, measuring 23.5cm by 23.5cm and 3cm thick, with 36 conical keys cut into the base. These tiles were made in a frame as in the manufacture of bricks, roof and floor tiles. They were originally clear lead-glazed and used as an important building component of the malthouse, as a floor for kilning the green malt which was heated on the drying floor to arrest the germination. Below this perforated floor there was a heat chamber. This type of kiln tile was mainly in use from the 18th century until the last quarter of the 19th century when wire kiln drying floors were becoming more commonly used (Patrick 2004, 19–22).

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Church House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension and conversion of an existing garage into a three bedroom residence at Church House, Lechlade. A series of brick and limestone walls and floor surfaces were identified. The heat-affected nature of some of the features and the quantities of tiles with aeration holes encountered suggest that these structures are associated with a malthouse depicted on site on the late 19th and early 20th-century Ordnance Survey mapping.	
Project dates	15-24 June 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Church House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire	
Study area	270m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 2147 9948	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Gloucestershire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alexandra Wilkinson	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Malthouse	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	none	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Corinium Museum	Glass, metal, ceramic
Paper	Corinium Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, plans, sections, registers
Digital	Corinium Museum	digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Church House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>11159</b>		



t 01285 771022  
 f 01285 771033  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Church House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

Reproduced from the XXXX Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeological Trust 100002109

PROJECT NO. 3429	DATE 14-07-2011	FIGURE NO. 1
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



- site
- areas of observed groundworks
- floor surface
- wall



t 01285 771022  
 f 01285 771033  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

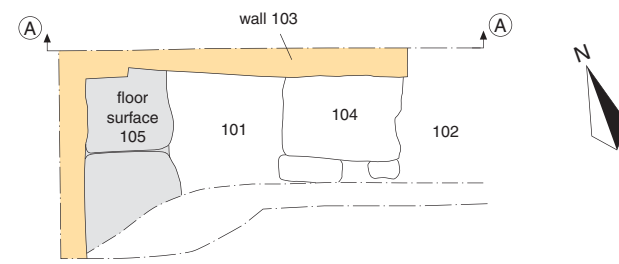
PROJECT TITLE  
 Church House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE  
**The site, showing location of groundworks and archaeological features**

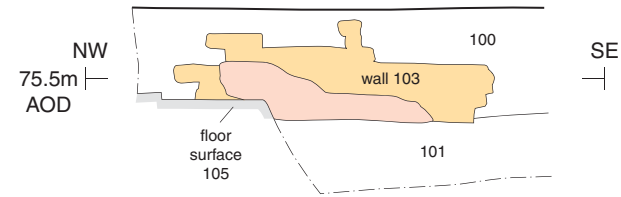
PROJECT NO.	3429	DATE	14-07-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	1:250	



Trench 1, Plan



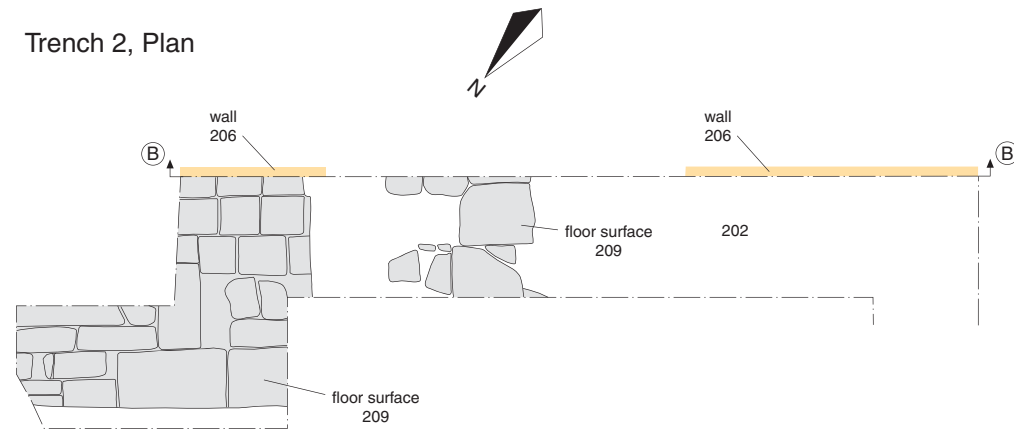
Section AA



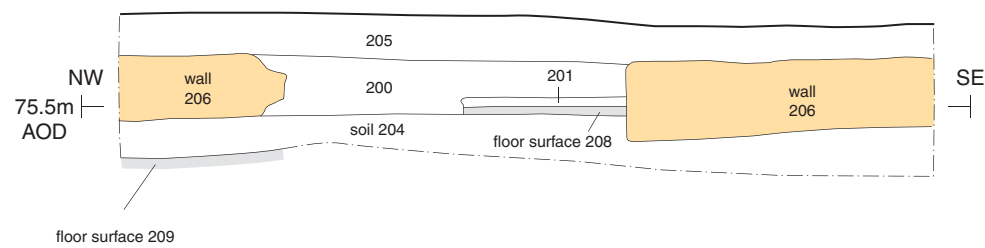
View of Trench 1 showing wall 103 looking north-west (scale 1m)

- brick
- mortar and degraded brick
- floor paving

Trench 2, Plan



Section BB



View of Trench 2 showing wall 206 looking south-west (1m scale)



View of floor surface 209 (1m scale)

0 3m

 Cotswold Archaeology  
 t 01285 771022  
 f 01285 771033  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

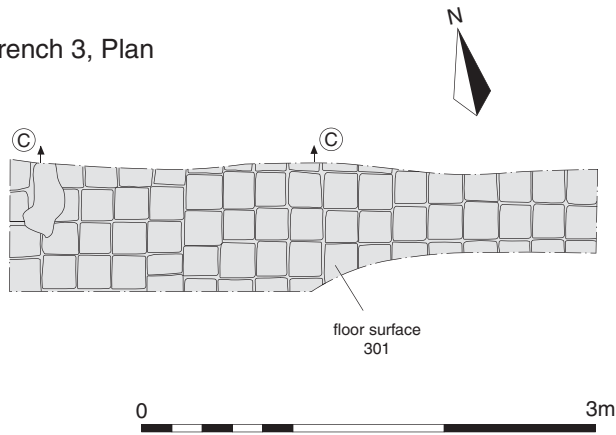
PROJECT TITLE  
 Church House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trenches 1 and 2: Plans, sections and photographs**

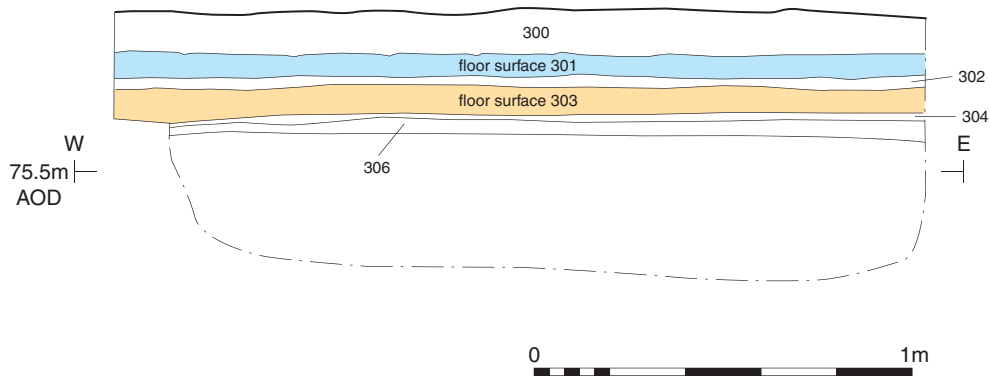
PROJECT NO. 3429 DATE 14-07-2011 FIGURE NO.  
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A3 1:50 **3**



Trench 3, Plan



Trench 3, Section CC



View of Trench 3, showing tile floor 301 brick floor surface 303 and clay layer 306, looking north (scale 1m)

- brick
- floor paving
- tile



t 01285 771022  
 f 01285 771033  
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk  
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE  
 Church House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE  
 Trench 3: Plan, Section and photograph

PROJECT NO. 3429	DATE 15-07-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	4
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A4 1:50 and 1:20	



5



6



7



8

- 5 Tile floor surface 301 in Trench 3 looking west (scale 1m)
- 6 Yard surface 406 in Trench 4 looking west (scale 1m)
- 7 Surface of 'kiln tile'. The mortar is from later re-use of the tile (scale 0.25m)
- 8 Underside of ' kiln tile' (scale 0.25m)